

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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<b>COUNTRY</b>	Korea	<b>REPORT</b>		25X1
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Transportation

1. [ ] a daily express passenger train ran between P'yongyang and Ch'ongjin (N 41-47, E 129-50) [ ] carrying second-class cars for government employees, third-class cars for the general public,<sup>1</sup> and four coaches for the exclusive use of women and children. First-class cars were available only on trains making special runs. In order to purchase tickets, persons were required to show their citizenship cards. The third-class train fare between Sinp'o and P'yongyang was 270 won,<sup>2</sup> and the trip took about 14 hours. Trains rarely arrived at stations on time. Freight trains were composed of approximately 20 uncovered, six-wheeled cars. Freight carried in the direction of P'yongyang consisted chiefly of lumber and metal goods. 25X1
2. A four-engine passenger plane made a daily flight from P'yongyang to Ch'ongjin<sup>3</sup> and a daily round trip flight between P'yongyang and Sinyang, where there was a connecting plane from Peip'ing. 25X1
3. Soviet-made trucks and busses were in operation in Oun-ni (N 40-21, E 128-16) [ ]; but there were only two private passenger automobiles, one owned by the brigade commander, North Korean Army, and the other by an engineer employed by the shipyard. Goods were transported by ox-carts controlled by the state-operated Carters' Union. Although, in 1952 the Chinese Communist Government sent horses to the RI People's Committee for distribution, one to each district, under the Free Aid Program, the horses were not used to pull carts. 25X1

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Shops and Prices

4. Songjin (N 40-40, E 129-12) [ ] had three types of stores, namely, state-operated; privately-owned; and sidewalk stalls, some of which were made of wooden boxes. The quality of the merchandise was the same in all three but prices were slightly higher in shops owned by private individuals. Although most of the products were manufactured in Communist China, some goods originated in the USSR. The only North Korean product on sale appeared to be laundry soap. Approximately 70 percent of the drugs sold at the People's Pharmacy were products of Communist China; 30 percent had been made in the USSR. Those from China were dispensed in wooden boxes; whereas the Russian drugs were in labeled bottles or pill boxes. Edibles sold at sidewalk stalls included black grain jelly, and Chinese candy and rice cakes. Liquor stores stocked vodka, Korean brandy, and apple brandy, the latter selling for 120 won a bottle. State-operated department stores sold one sh<sup>4</sup> of rationed rice for 75 won and the same amount of unrationed rice for 100 won. 25X1
5. The greater part of the stock in the state stores consisted of free-aid goods from Communist China, received from the North Korean Government in limited quantities. After being placed on sale, stocks of certain items, such as towels and candy, were quickly depleted. Then owners of private stores who had stocked up in advance in anticipation of the shortage placed their goods on sale. The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) made no attempt to prevent such tactics and permitted the sale of luxury and other goods no matter how they had been acquired.<sup>5</sup> In P'yongyang American goods of every kind could be purchased on the black market.<sup>6</sup> United States currency also was relatively easy to obtain.<sup>7</sup>

Rehabilitation

6. At Sinp'o (N 40-02, E 128-11) [ ] 400 laborers were rapidly building the three-story<sup>8</sup> Marine Technical School, to facilitate its opening on schedule in April 1955. The five lumber mills in the town were in constant operation. Three 100-ton vessels were under construction at the shipyard, and approximately eight 50-ton vessels<sup>9</sup> were under repair in the harbor. 25X1

Entertainment

7. During this period the program at a moving picture theater in Ch'ongjin comprised "Fruitful Year in China," a North Korean film entitled "Guardians of the Homeland," and a newsreel picturing farmers at work, illustrating working conditions of laborers, and describing the new street planning. At P'yongyang the price of admission to the theatre was 20 won for adults, including military personnel,<sup>10</sup> who comprised the majority of the patrons, and 10 won for children. North Korean popular songs and hour-long programs<sup>11</sup> from Communist China and the USSR were broadcast daily from loud speakers set up at street corners.

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1. Comment. [redacted], third-class cars were generally converted freight cars and were attached to freight trains. 25X1  
Comment. [redacted] local third-class cars usually consist of 2 passenger cars and about 12 open freight cars. 25X1
2. Comment. The rate of exchange was approximately 150 won to U.S. \$1.00. 25X1
3. Comment. [redacted], international air line service was established on 18 May 1954 when the National Civil Air Line began operating between P'yongyang and Ch'ongjin. Officials, materials for reconstruction, and other cargoes were to be transported. 25X1
- Comments 25X1
4. A sho (Japanese word) equals 3.18 pints; the Korean word for this measure is sung.
5. [redacted] 25X1
- Comments 25X1
6. Phillip Morris cigarettes were sold for 100 won per pack.
7. Within three days representatives of the Korea Foreign Trading Company had acquired U.S. \$12,000 to pay for merchandise [redacted] and three days later an additional U.S. \$3,000. 25X1
8. Comment. [redacted] in October 1952 the Marine Technical School was a one-story white adobe building, which was probably destroyed during the Korean War. 25X1
- Comments 25X1
9. These were reported to be the ships which had been sunk during the Korean War and later salvaged.
10. Every uniformed person in the theater was wearing a medal. However, only about 20 or 30 in North Korea have been awarded the "Hero's Medal, First Class", which entitles the wearer to priority on all modes of transportation.
11. Comment. The nature of these programs was unspecified. 25X1  
Comment. They probably contained propaganda. [redacted]

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